

Amendments to the Drawings

Attached is a replacement sheet providing formal drawings of Figures 1-4.

REMARKS

Claims 15-26 have been amended in a manner believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Added Claims 27-33 are also believed allowable. Consideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Formal drawings have been prepared that more clearly illustrate the features of Figures 1-4.

The objections to the drawings set forth at pages 2-3 of the Office Action have been considered.

The objection to the drawings as failing to show how the center disk interacts with the base plate during rotation of the base plate and the shape of the base plate and base plate recess has been considered. Applicants believe that the formal drawings clearly show the shapes of the base plate 1 (Figures 1, 3 and 4), the base plate recess 19 (Figure 4), the center disk 6 (Figure 3), and the radial projection or flange 7 of the center disk (Figures 3 and 4). Further, the interaction between the base plate 1 and the center disk 6 during rotation of the base plate is believed discernable (Figures 2 and 4). Figure 3 shows how the base plate 1 has a flange 9 that is disposed under the flange 7 of the disk plate so that the base plate 1 is maintained on the snowboard. Recess 19 shown in Figure 4 defines a space that permits rotation of the base plate 1 relative to the center disk 6 that is fixed to the snowboard 8. Figure 2 illustrates how head 17 of bolt 15 secures the base plate 1 to the center disk 6 after rotation of the base plate 1. Therefore, interaction between the base plate and center disk, along with structural detail for the various elements is believed to be clearly illustrated.

The drawing objections state that the recess 19 shown in Figure 4 appears sized to inhibit the rotation of the base plate to the angles that correspond to the entire length of the slit 16. This statement has been considered. Paragraph [0035] of U.S. Pub. No. 2008/0150258 (the '258 specification) which is the publication that corresponds to the instant

application, states that "the base plate must be able to rotate up to 45° with respect to the center disk 6."

Paragraph [0036] of the '258 specification discloses that section A of the slit 16 provides an angle of 10° and section B of the slit provides an angle of 35° for rotation of the base plate 1.

New Figure 4 shows recess 19 sized to permit rotation of about 10° for the base plate in a clockwise direction along section A of the slit 16 formed in the radial projection 14 of the center disk 6 and to permit rotation of about 35° in a counter-clockwise direction along section B of the slit 16. Thus, the base plate can rotate the angle of 45° disclosed in the '268 specification. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection based on recess 19 inhibiting rotation of the base plate 1 is respectfully requested.

The objection to the drawing for not showing how the center disk radial flange 7 tapers toward the snowboard has been considered.

The phrase the "center disk stepped circumferential section tapered towards the snowboard 8" in paragraph [0031] of the '258 specification is believed shown in the drawings. Besides the phrase defining the stepped or sharp change in diameter for the center disk at the edge of the flange 7 as shown in Figures 2 and 3 being "tapered", Applicants believe that "tapered" also defines arrangements having a gradual change in center disk diameter, thus covering additional embodiments besides the arrangement illustrated in Figure 2, wherein a sharp tapering occurs whereat the radial flange 9 essentially ends or joins the lower portion of the center disk.

The circumferential section of the center disk including flange 7 is larger than the disk diameter of the section oriented towards the snowboard as shown in Figures 2 and 3. The diameter adjacent the snowboard has a much smaller value due to the absence of the flange 7 thereabout. Descriptive text has been added to the '268 specification. The text

merely states that the disk diameter of the center disk 6 adjacent the snowboard is less than the disk diameter for the upper portion or side formed by the radial flange 7. Since the text essentially further clarifies the second sentence in paragraph [0031] of the '268 specification and further describes the arrangement shown in Figures 2 and 3, no new matter is presented.

For the above reasons, how the stepped circumferential section tapers sharply toward the snowboard is believed clearly described.

The objection to the drawings for not showing how the transition between the base plate flange 9 and the radial center disk flange 7 is structured has been considered.

The transition between the inwardly oriented base plate flange 9 and the circumferential section of outwardly projecting radial flange 7 of the center disk 6 is shown in original Figure 2 as a stepped or sharp transition. The radial flange 7 of the center disk 6 essentially overlies the radially inwardly oriented flange 9 of the base plate 1 that projects inwardly about a portion of the opening in the base plate 1 as shown in Figures 2 and 4. A lower face of the radial center disk flange 7 of the center disk has a horizontal surface as shown in Figure 2 for facing a horizontal face of the base plate flange 9. Thus, the radial center disk flange 7 maintains the base plate 1 between the flange 7 and the snowboard 1. Therefore, the transition between the base plate flange 9 and the center disk flange 7 is clearly illustrated.

From the above discussion and in view of the formal drawings, a clear understanding of the structure and function of the invention is provided and therefore withdrawal of the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 15-26 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite has been considered.

With regard to Claim 15, line 10, the statement that the locking device "secures the center disk on the base plate" being in error has been considered. Amended Claim 15 now recites that the locking device --secures the center disk at the base plate--. Thus, the center disk is no longer recited as being "on" the base plate.

To address a rejection for lack of proper antecedent basis, Claim 15, line 4, "the snowboard" has been changed to --a snowboard--. Likewise, at Claim 15, line 7, "the" has been deleted before "fastening elements" to also address an antecedent basis issue.

At Claim 15, line 9, the rejection based on a lack of antecedent basis for "the edge section" is traversed, as an edge section is recited in line 5 of Claim 15.

In view of the above comments and amendments, Claims 15-26 are believed definite, and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Other minor amendments to Claims 15-26 are not believed to change the scope of the claims significantly, but instead may merely clarify the claimed invention.

No claims were rejected based on prior art. Applicants agree with the Reasons for Allowance set forth at page 4 of the Office Action. Therefore, consideration and allowance of Claims 15-26 is respectfully requested.

New Claims 27-33 have been added. Independent Claim 27 includes most of the features provided to obtain allowance of Claim 15. Exceptions to the features of Claim 15, are that Claim 27 does not claim "a vertical direction" for the pressing contact surfaces and further does not claim a circumferential section "tapered" towards a snowboard. Claim 27, and Claims 28-33 dependent therefrom, are believed allowable for similar reasons as those set forth at page 4 of the Office Action with respect to Claim 15.

Further and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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